edible oils has been reduced from 25% to 15%. Export of onion and pulses have been banned. All the State Government have been requested to take stringent action against hoarders and black marketeers under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act. The supplies of essential commodities and their prices are being monitored on daily basis.

(c) The Government had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss issues relating to price rise on 27.11.98. In the meeting several short-term and medium-term measures to contain and stabilise the prices of essential commodities were taken.

Disease Surveillance Programmes

*88.SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nation-wide disease surveillance programmes which were proposed to be started, have been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, if not, by when these would be started; and

(c) the number of centres to be opened in the North-Eastern States and in which medical institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) A pilot programme for undertaking disease surveillance and rapid response to disease outbreaks was introduced in 1997 and has been continued in 1998. Till now 25 districts have been covered and during the IXth Plan the programme is to be extended in a phased manner. The project essentially builds district capacity to recognise early warning signals of disease outbreaks and to tackle them promptly.

(c) There is a proposal to include 14 districts in the North-Eastern States under the Programme during the IXth Plan. The names of the districts and medical institutes are yet to be finalised.

Crime against Women

*89. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has proved to be a toothless organisation, having largely failed in its objective of focussing on and resolving the problems faced by the womenfolk in the present-day male-dominated society, securing status and human dignity to women and girls; curbing crime against women and bringing the culprits to book, followed by deterrent punishment;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) what specific recommendations for amending or enacting women-related legislations are pending response and decision by Government or/are pending before Parliament and the State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National Commission for Women has been performing its functions in accordance with the mandate contained in the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Legislation
	Amendment of existing legislations:—
1.	Dowry prohibition Act, 1961
2.	The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987
3.	The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
4.	The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986.
5.	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
6.	Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
7.	Guardians and Wards Act, 1890
8.	Indian Succesion Act, 1925.

9. Foreign Marriage Act, 1969
10. Family Courts Act, 1984
11. Married Women's Property Act, 1874
12. Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

Enactment of new legislations:—

1. Legislation on compulsory registration of marriages in India
2. The Domestic violence to Women (Prevention) Bill
3. The Orphan and Destitute Children (Adoption) Bill
4. The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 1996
5. The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1994
6. The Marriage Bill, 1994

Inadequacy of funds/drugs for Tuberculosis

*90. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the tuberculosis has assumed epidemic form as a large number of people have fallen victim to this disease;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of funds and drugs, besides inadequate medical facilities, to tackle this problem; and

(c) if so, what concrete steps have been taken to make adequate funds and drugs available and to create facilities for effective treatment of the T.B. Patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The trend of TB cases in the country reported under National TB Control Programme over the last several years has been more or less static.

(b) and (c) Budgetary provisions have more than doubled over the last 5 years. Now 100% drug requirement of States are met by Centre. A World Bank Assisted Revised National TB Control Programme is being implemented which will cover 102 districts covering a population of 271 million in a phased manner. In addition, 203 "Short Course Chemotheraphy (SSC) districts will be strengthened by providing Binocular Microscopes and other inputs as preparatory steps for facilitating RNTCP at a later date.

Popularisation of Ayurvedic system of Medicine

*91. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has suggested setting up a cell for Ayurveda in the SAARC Secretariat; if so, what measures Government have adopted so far to popularize this system of medicine in the country;

(b) how many Ayurvedic medical colleges have been opened so far and their numerical comparison with medical colleges of other systems of medicines; and

(c) how much amount is being spent on Research and Development to improve the Ayurvedic system, out of the total amount spent on R&D in Health Education Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) There is no proposal for setting up an Ayurvedic Cell in the SAARC Secretariat.

(b) 160 Ayurvedic Medical Colleges have been opened. Medical Colleges of other systems are as here under:—

Unani	-	37
Siddha	-	02
Homoeopathy	-	127
Allopathy	-	154

(c) Out of a total of Rs. 583.19 crores earmarked for Research & Development, Rs. 26.60 crores is proposed to be spent on R & D pertaining to the Ayurvedic system during the year 1998-99.

निजी क्षेत्र के यूरिया उत्पादकों को राजसहायता न दिया जाना

*92. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उनके मंत्रालय ने देश में निजी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों द्वारा उत्पादित यूरिया पर राजसहायता संबंधी